

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

*Re: Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60*

I just returned from a trip to the “Great Land”, where I had an incredible opportunity to see first-hand, how USF policies that promote rural health care, are making a difference in the lives of Alaskans. Through telemedicine, those who live in remote areas, can receive care, that was either previously out of reach, or would have otherwise required them to travel hundreds of miles, most often by aircraft, which is unbelievably expensive, and often requires multiple days of work, and school to be missed. Not only can our broadband policies help in delivering much needed health care to hard-to-serve areas, they also can save consumers both time and money.

As the National Broadband Plan recognizes, and as discussed in this Notice, our policies can do more to promote better health care throughout our nation, and improve even more lives in rural America. This Notice is a very good start, and I am pleased that it specifically requests input from Tribal governments and insular areas. There are certain geographic areas in this great nation, that may require us to consider a different approach to address the unique needs found in those areas. As my trip to Alaska illustrates, our nation is vast and diverse, and “one size” does not necessarily fit all.

I look forward to engaging with interested parties on the issues raised in this Notice, so that we can implement rural health care mechanisms that will benefit the most Americans.